

FACT SHEET



Mid-America Tanning Superfund Site Woodbury County, Iowa

July 2000

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA will hold a public meeting Monday, July 24, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sergeant Bluff City Hall, 401 Fourth Street, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on the proposed plan.

EPA is asking for comments on the proposed plan and the recommendation to take no further action to address ground water at this site. Comments can be made orally or in writing at the public meeting or can be mailed to the address listed below. The 30-day comment period opens July 13, 2000, and closes August 11, 2000.

Written comments (post-marked no later than August 11, 2000), can be sent to:

Diane Huffman
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a proposed plan recommending no further action be taken to address ground water at the Mid-America Tanning (MAT) Company Superfund site. The site is located in Woodbury County, Iowa, approximately seven miles south of Sioux City and four miles south of Sergeant Bluff. EPA is taking comments until August 11, 2000, on this recommendation.

After reviewing comments received during the public comment period, EPA will make a decision on the proposal to take no further action. The decision will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

SITE BACKGROUND

The approximately 100-acre MAT site is located in an industrial area known as the Port Neal Industrial District. The hide tanning conducted at the site from 1970 to 1989 generated a wastewater stream containing high levels of chromium. Contaminated sludges were also generated at the site's wastewater treatment plant and deposited in basins and lagoons, buried in trenches, and land farmed on the site. Spills and overflows from the wastewater treatment plant also caused chromium contamination in surrounding soil.

In 1989, the site was placed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), a list of the nation's highest priority sites eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. In 1990, removal actions were

taken to excavate sludges, treat waste solutions, and decontaminate buildings. An investigation of the contamination at the site was completed in 1991. Contaminants such as chromium, arsenic, barium, and lead were found at the site.

In 1991, after public comment, a Record of Decision (ROD) that presented the remedy for the site was issued. The ROD called for the most contaminated sediment and soil to be immobilized in place, less contaminated soil to be placed underneath a soil-clay cap, and treatment and discharge of the contaminated water in the impoundments. The ROD also stated that ground water would be addressed separately and recommended further monitoring.

The ROD was amended in 1996 because hydrogen sulfide gas was discovered at concentrations that posed health risks and portions of the original remedy could not be carried out as planned. The amendment resulted in all of the contaminated sediment and soil being consolidated in one location and capped. EPA and the Foxley Cattle Company have conducted the work at the site.

PROPOSAL FOR THE SITE

The ground water contamination at the site has been monitored since 1985 and an assessment completed in 1997. Based on the results of the assessment, there is no apparent risk to human health and the environment from the ground water at the site and the remaining contaminants will not adversely impact ground water quality.

Previous removal and remedial actions taken at the site and the lack of ground water contamination eliminate the need for further action for the ground water. Therefore, EPA is proposing that no further action be taken to address ground water and requests comments on this proposal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review and comment on the proposed plan for the MAT site. A file containing site-related documents, called the Administrative Record File, is available for public review during normal business hours at the Sergeant Bluff City Hall, 401 Fourth Street, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, and at EPA Region 7.

If you have questions or need additional information about this site, please contact:

Diane Huffman, Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of External Programs, EPA Region 7
901 5th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Telephone: 1-913-551-7003 or Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
Fax: 1-913-551-7066, E-mail: huffman.diane@epa.gov